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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, who calls strategic leaders to shape history, we pray for the women and men of this Senate. Once again, today, may they feel awe and wonder that You have chosen them through the voice of Your people. May they live this day humbly on the knees of their hearts, honestly admitting their human inadequacy and gratefully acknowledging Your power. Dwell in the secret places of their hearts to give them inner peace and security. Help them in their offices, with their staffs, in committee meetings, and when they are here together in this sacred, historic Chamber. Remind them of their accountability to You for all they say and do. Reveal Yourself to them. Be the unseen friend beside them in every changing circumstance. Give them a fresh experience of Your palpable and powerful spirit. Banish weariness and worry, discouragement and disillusionment. Often today may we all hear Your voice saying, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." Lord, help us to rest in You and receive the incredible resiliency You provide. Thank You in advance for a truly productive day. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator DOLE, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 1 p.m. We will not have any rollcall votes during today's session. I

am not anticipating any rollcall votes for the remainder of the week. If a rollcall vote becomes necessary, ample notification will be given to all Members.

We will, obviously, turn to any matters we can clear by unanimous consent on the Legislative Calendar. There will be a continuing resolution coming over from the House on, I believe, Wednesday of this week, and it is my hope that we can dispose of that by consent. If not, we would have to give Members at least 24 hours' notice on each side. I am not certain how many Members plan to be in town this week. Many are back in their States doing official business. But the continuing resolution expires Friday, January 26. Therefore, we need to act on it before that date.

It is also my understanding that the Presiding Officer would like to bring up this week the conference report on the Defense authorization bill. Again, it is our hope that if that does come up, as I understand it, it now has bipartisan support. The conference report has been signed by Senators NUNN and KENNEDY on that side and by all the Republican conferees, as I understand it. It is our hope that if that comes up, it can be done by consent. If not, we would either have to postpone that vote or give our colleagues notice, because we have indicated we would do that, and we will follow through on that.

THE SENATE RETURNS TO SESSION

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, we do return to session today ending a recess that began on January 10. Much of what has occurred across America these past 12 days has to do with the weather. I know all Senators join me in saying that our thoughts and prayers are with all those who were victims of "The Blizzard of '96." One of the hardest hit States was Pennsylvania. I saw Governor Ridge on television this

morning expressing his concern that the Federal Emergency Management Administration has not been as helpful as Pennsylvania had hoped. I understand that is being worked out. I hope it is, and I hope FEMA does their usual good job, as they have in the past. We will follow that closely.

I would expect that once Federal officials look at the devastation caused by the flooding, they will provide the necessary assistance. I know the Senate stands ready to work with our Governors and with the President to ensure that that occurs as quickly as possible.

Not only was much of America frozen this past week and a half, but so, too, were the negotiations for a balanced budget. We do have from the President, finally, a certified CBO balanced budget. But I must say to my colleagues that, unfortunately, if you take a close look at that budget—and I commend the President for submitting it—much of the savings do not take place until the next century. This is 1996. If the President were reelected, he would be long gone before most of the savings in the discretionary spending occur. Ninety-five percent of the savings in the President's proposal in discretionary spending occur in the last 2 years, 2001, 2002.

We were concerned about our budget because we think ours is a little bit backloaded, but I do not believe, knowing the Congress as I do, that it would be possible for the appropriators to do that much cutting in the final 2 years. Ninety-five percent of \$295 billion would have to be done in the last 2 years.

So it seems to me that there is still some glimmer of hope that we might come together on a balanced budget agreement. It is not that we have not

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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